

Grade 6 SS/ELA
Unit 1: Geography Lesson 1

Lesson 1: What is Geography?

Overview:

The students will define geography and create a word cloud using Wordle. Then they will watch a video clip about the five themes of geography along with activities based on the clip, or apply the five themes to a current event in the Eastern Hemisphere if technology is not available. Finally, they will create a foldable book about the themes. This lesson prepares students to apply the Five Themes of Geography to the civilizations of the Eastern Hemisphere. Note: New York State Social Studies Standards refer to six elements. The Standards add “the use of geography” to the Five Themes.

Suggested time allowance: 2 class periods

Standards:

- SS.3.1: Geography can be divided into six essential elements which can be used to analyze important historic, geographic, economic, and environmental questions and issues. These six elements include: the world in spatial terms, places and regions, physical settings (including natural resources), human systems, environment and society, and the use of geography.
- RH.6.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including vocabulary specific to domains related to history/social studies.
- RH.6.7: Integrate visual information (e.g., in charts, graphs, photographs, videos, or maps) with other information in print and digital texts.
- WHST.6-8.2: Integrate visual information (e.g., in charts, graphs, photographs, videos, or maps) with other information in print and digital texts.
- SL.6.1: Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on *grade 6 topics, texts, and issues*, building on others’ ideas and expressing their own clearly.
- SL.6.2: Interpret information presented in diverse media and formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) and explain how it contributes to a topic, text, or issue under study.

Enduring Understanding:

- Geography affects the life and development of a civilization.

Essential Unit Question:

- What are the Five Themes of Geography?
- How are the Five Themes illustrated in the Eastern Hemisphere?

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Resources/Materials for this lesson

- “Wordle.” <http://www.wordle.net> Wordle is a toy for generating “word clouds” from text that you provide.
- Map of the World or Eastern Hemisphere
- *History of Our World: The Early People*. New York: Prentice Hall, 2008. Pgs. M-M1 and page 9 or any 6th grade text that covers the same material
- “The Themes of Geography.” *Brainpop*. <http://Brainpop.com> Introduces geographic themes through video clips and supplemental activities. Subscription Required.
- “Current Events: Connection to Geographic Themes in the Eastern Hemisphere” (included)
- Flashcards: The 5 Themes of Geography. Quizlet.
- <http://quizlet.com/1184091/the-5-themes-of-geography-flash-cards/> This site is an aid for key word study practice through flashcards and quizzes.
- “Five Themes of Geography” reading (included)
- “Five Themes of Geography Rubric” (included)
- “Directions/model to make Foldable Book” worksheet (included)

Activities/Procedures:

Day 1

1. Write the word “geography” on the white board. Tell the students to work with a partner to brainstorm words associated with geography. Project Wordle <http://www.wordle.net> on the SMART Board. Call on students to input words from their brainstormed list into Wordle to make a word cloud based on geography. Words may be inputted many times, the word cloud will reflect the frequency each word is mentioned.
NOTE: There may be inappropriate content on the main page of wordle.net. Therefore, it is suggested that you go directly to the “**Create**” page on wordle (<http://wordle.net/create>)
2. Distribute the “Five Themes of Geography” reading. (included)
3. Discuss each of the themes with the students. Add examples of the themes; illustrate them on a World Map, and discuss how they relate to the lives of people living in the Eastern Hemisphere. Students may add examples from their prior knowledge.
4. Project “Themes of Geography” from Brainpop. After the clip, complete some of the associated activities (Q and A, Careers in Geography, Trivia Questions and Quiz). If Brainpop is not available, use the “Current Events: Connection to Geographic Themes in the Eastern hemisphere” option. (included)
5. Homework: Direct the students to go to <http://quizlet.com/1184091/the-5-themes-of-geography-flash-cards/> to study the key geographic terms in a variety of ways.

Day 2

- Explain to the students that they will create a book that includes each of the Five Themes of geography. They will define each theme, illustrate each page and write a descriptive sentence about the theme. The illustrations can be hand drawn or copied/pasted from the Internet.

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- Demonstrate how to set-up the Foldable Books: (See model included)
 - Take three sheets of colored computer paper (all different colors). Put them on top of each other overlapping by one inch
 - Fold the papers up to make a booklet (five equal sections and a large section at the bottom for the title page).
 - Turn folded pages right side up
 - Write the title on the first page, and label all of the tabs (pages)
- The students should work on the books in class and finish them for homework. They may use any 6th grade text or geography book and /or “The Five Themes of Geography” reading (included)
- When completed, have the students sit in a circle and pass the Foldable Books around to share their work.

Technology Option: Have students make a digital book instead of the Foldable Book. They can use PhotoStory3 (free download from Microsoft), PowerPoint, Mixbook.com, Tikatok.com, SlideRocket.com, PhotoPeach, or any of a number of other Web 2.0 tools available.

Evaluation/Assessment:

- Foldable Book

Vocabulary (See Unit Glossary for definitions)

- location
- place
- movement
- region
- human/environment